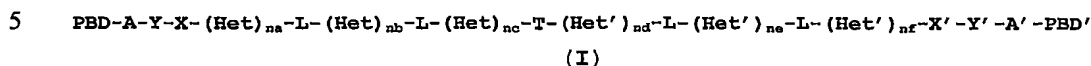
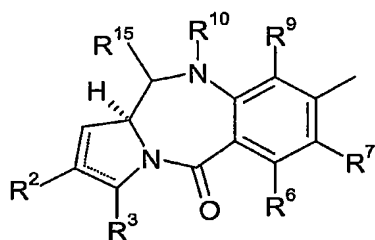


## CLAIMS

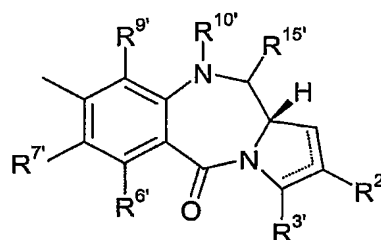
1. A compound of formula (I):



and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



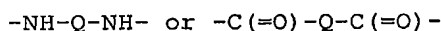
PBD



PBD'

- 10 with the bonds at the 8 position on each molecule bond to the A and A' groups respectively.  
the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;  
R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO<sub>2</sub>-R, CO<sub>2</sub>R and COR;  
15 R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn and halo; where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl and C<sub>5-20</sub> aryl groups; or  
20 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together form a group -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-O-, where p is 1 or 2;  
R<sup>10</sup> is a nitrogen protecting group and R<sup>15</sup> is either O-R<sup>11</sup>, where R<sup>11</sup> is a hydroxyl protecting group; or  
R<sup>15</sup> is OH, =O or =S; or  
R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> together form a double bond between C10 and C11;  
25 A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;  
Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;  
X and X' are both either NH or C(=O);  
each Het and Het' is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;  
30 each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;

T is a divalent linker group of the form:



wherein Q is a divalent group such that  $\text{HQ} = \text{R}$ ;

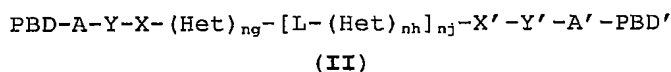
- 5  $\text{A}'$ ,  $\text{Y}'$ ,  $\text{Het}'$ ,  $\text{R}^{2'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{3'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{6'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{7'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{9'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{10'}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11'}$  and  $\text{R}^{15'}$  are all independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for A, Y, Het,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{R}^9$ ,  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{15}$  respectively; na, nb, nc, nd, ne and nf are each independently 0 to 5 and the sum  $\text{na} + \text{nb} + \text{nc} + \text{nd} + \text{ne} + \text{nf}$  is 0 to 16.

- 10 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the sums  $\text{na} + \text{nb} + \text{nc}$  and  $\text{nd} + \text{ne} + \text{nf}$  are equal.

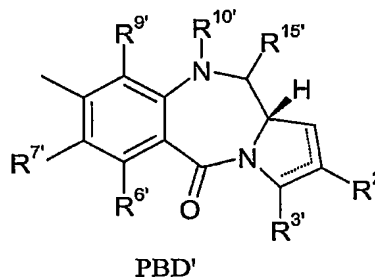
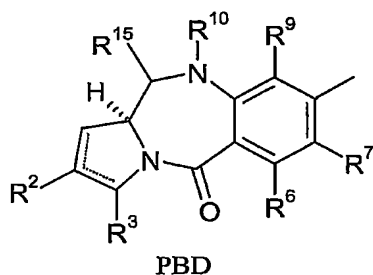
3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein Het and Het' are nitrogen containing heteroaryl units.

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4. A compound of formula (II):



- 20 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



the bonds at the 8 position on PBD and PBD' bond to A and A' groups respectively;

- 25 the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO<sub>2</sub>-R, CO<sub>2</sub>R and COR;

$\text{R}^6$ ,  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^9$  are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH,

- 30 SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn and halo; where R and R' are

- independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl and C<sub>5-20</sub> aryl groups; or  
 R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together form a group -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-O-, where p is 1 or 2;  
 R<sup>10</sup> is a nitrogen protecting group and R<sup>15</sup> is either O-R<sup>11</sup>, where  
 5 R<sup>11</sup> is a hydroxyl protecting group; or  
 R<sup>15</sup> is OH, =O or =S; or  
 R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> together form a double bond between C10 and N11;  
 A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;  
 Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;  
 10 each Het is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;  
 each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;  
 A', Y', R<sup>2'</sup>, R<sup>3'</sup>, R<sup>6'</sup>, R<sup>7'</sup>, R<sup>9'</sup>, R<sup>10'</sup>, R<sup>11'</sup> and R<sup>15'</sup> are all  
 independently selected from the same lists as previously defined  
 15 for A, Y, Het, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> respectively;  
 ng is 1 to 5, nh is 1 to 5 and nj is 0 to 3  
 X and X' are either NH and C(=O) respectively or C(=O) and NH respectively.
- 20 5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the total number of  
 Het groups in the compound represented by the sum ng + (nj x nh)  
 is 1 to 3.
- 25 6. A compound according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein  
 Het are nitrogen containing heteroarylene units.
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,  
 wherein PBD and PBD' are the same.
- 30 8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,  
 wherein R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>9'</sup> are H.
9. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,  
 wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>2'</sup> and R<sup>3'</sup> are independently selected from R and  
 35 H.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>6'</sup> are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH<sub>2</sub>, nitro and halo.
- 5 11. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>7'</sup> are independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR' and halo.
12. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> together form a double bond between N10 and C11 and R<sup>10'</sup> and R<sup>15'</sup> together form a double bond between N10' and C11'.
- 10 13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> are independently selected from H, BOC, Troc and alloc, and R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>11'</sup> are independently selected from OH, THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.
- 15 14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use in a method of therapy.
- 20 15. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 25 16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.
- 30 17. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13.